

SPRING 2005

Dear Diary –

Just returned from a whirl wind tour of Oregon State University! What a great experience! When we first arrived, Chelsea, our student liaison and the miracle worker who raised all the funds necessary to bring us there, greeted us and made us feel really welcome. Our first task was our poster workshop with about 25 eager and involved students. They tackled tough issues and asked probing questions. It seems the students at OSU are particularly bright and involved. Aphra and I didn't even notice that we had gone over time with the workshop; we were having such a blast with them.

The following day we had a technical rehearsal for our show, "Feminists are Funny." What a gorgeous space the LaSells auditorium is! We had an incredible crew and really enthusiastic student volunteers for our performance. The show that night was a big hit as the audience kept cheering us on with every chant, cheer, and joke. But the high point of the night was taking pictures and signing autographs with the two young girls and one young boy who had watched the show from the first row. They loved the performance and let us know that even at their young age, they were feminists too! Talking and laughing with them, I knew I was shaking hands with a whole new generation of Guerrilla Girls On Tour and Baboon Boys and my heart began to soar knowing that the work we are doing now will live on after us! It is moments like these that make the difficult struggles we are working to overcome bearable and worth fighting for.

Reporting from the trenches,
Fanny Brice

Diary,

Guerrilla Girls On Tour has never been to Oregon so Fanny and I were very excited when we hopped on the red eye to Portland. We arrived to gorgeous weather and a most welcoming audience at Portland Community College. The theatre we performed in was stunning, large and the acoustics grand. The stage crew couldn't have been more efficient. After a kick ass performance we had the longest Q and A ever – at least 45 minutes of thoughtful questions and comments (mostly on gay marriage). We assured the crowd that a gay marriage poster was in the works! After the show I met a lovely transsexual who told me I could tell her story in my diary. She confided that having seen both sides of the fence she can confirm that life all changed for her when she became a dumb blonde. It was great to meet her and hear her confirm her sexist experiences as both man and woman. (And if you are reading this, send those photos!) The next day Fanny and I took a bit of a tour of Portland, including the Japanese Gardens where we hoped for a peek at Mount Hood. Alas, the clouds concealed it. We did get a great view the morning we left, however. Hope to be back to Oregon soon; a lovely state with lots of funny feminists!

XXOO,
Aphra

Dear Diary –

We just got back from a short but awesome trip to Douglass College at Rutgers's University in good ol' New Jersey. It seems we have many feminist friends across the river in the illustrious Garden State! We were there performing our hysterical romp, "Feminist are Funny" as part of their annual woman's weekend. This year's theme was "strong and beautiful" and I think I can safely say that we all felt that way that evening. The students who organized the event at Douglass were warm, bright, and helpful. They seemed really excited to have us there and were raring to engage us in conversation. And even though the venue was much smaller than some of our usual performances, the space lent an intimate atmosphere for the great Q & A that followed the performance.

All in all, a great feminist time was had by all!
Till we tour again,
Fanny

Dear Diary,

Coco and I have a special love for Pennsylvania, so when we got into our car and headed over the George Washington Bridge, we were filled with anticipation and excitement. Arriving in Williamsport, Coco immediately recognized our sponsor – Dr. Stanley – from her picture on the web site. We headed down to the black box theatre where 15 anxious theatre majors and minors were waiting to take our workshop in street theatre tactics. By the end of the two hours we had an awesome piece of street theatre that focused on the rule of no food being taken out of the Cafeteria and headed across campus with flyers and energy. After successfully taking food out of the Caf, we headed to our hotel to rest up for our second day as Lycoming renegades. We visited women in history and Sociology of gender; classes – tough and compelling questions were generated by both. After a fantastic Thai lunch with Dr. Stanley, we headed to our rehearsal. Three fantastic Lycoming theatre students – Katherine Hepburn, Lorraine Hansberry and Bette Davis helped us act out a play within play as well as the street theatre piece we performed at the Republican National Convention last summer in New York City that we call The Greatest Show On Earth. The performance was phenomenal! Coco, the queen of improv, was at the top of her game & spontaneously creating a chant about the cafeteria that had the audience screaming so loudly the security guard ran in. That provided yet more fodder for our zany antics on stage as the audience continued to prove they were one of the best we have ever played to. Thank you Williamsport and Lycoming for some great memories.

Love,
Aphra
April 2005

Dear Diary,

We didn't know what to expect when we headed down to Norfolk, VA for our performance at Old Dominion, Evening of Feminist ComedY, but we were pleasantly surprised when we arrived to find a large ballroom decked out with balloons, bananas and copies of our stickers and posters everywhere. Instead of traditional theatre seating, the room was set up with tables and chairs. All that was missing was a buffet; several men in white suddenly appeared with trays of jalapeno poppers, hot wings and home made cookies arrived. This was going to be a well fed crowd! By the time that Lupe, Julia and I came on stage the audience was ready to laugh and laugh they did, especially at Julia Child's comments about the food being her winning recipes. Our student performer (Sylvia Plath) had memorized her lines which impressed us even more. Our youngest audience member ever - an adorable 4 month old baby girl (see photos) seemed to respond to our jokes with coos and babbles. Our Q and A was full of smart questions and the women's center even treated us to dinner at a lovely restaurant after the show. Now I know what southern hospitality really is. Thanks ODU for welcoming us with such grace and laughter.

Love,
Aphra
March 2005

Dear Diary,

Seven of us monkey types piled into a mini-van to drive through a busy-body blizzard to the home of St. Joseph's College-West Hartford, CT. We were warmly welcomed by the theatre staff and then ushered off to the food commons. This was a giant gymnasium-like space with millions of differently themed-buffets for our eating pleasure. Wonder bread and ham sandwiches for breakfast. Walnut-Grape-Tahini Salad for lunch. Burritos for dinner. We were ape-wild for it. Or at least I was.

We taught a poster making workshop in the blustery afternoon, shortly before all classes were cancelled because of the storm. The women were hot on the idea of pushing for a women's center-a spiritually neutral space which would provide full access to contraceptives and STI testing- on their all-women, Catholic campus. The girls that were present were concerned about apathy on campus and the student body's relationship to, well, their bodies! And food. So we made a bunch of posters about it. We taught a fruitful ensemble theatre workshop to a very active group of women and built group pieces around passionate moments of our autobiographies. Silliness abounded.

Our performance went tremendously well, and our Q and A that followed inspired such ever-important questions as "What is Feminism?" (Something I am always asking myself as the

answer is different in different contexts.) and "What is Performance?" (What ISN'T performance?!))

We waved goodbye to the nun portraits on the way out, and blew SJC a big, fat kiss!

Bananas, [Julia Child](#)

Dear Diary,

When we arrived at St. Joseph College the snow had just started to pick up. It was cold and blustery, and I had no desire to get out of our warm van. But my excitement overcame my shivers, and when we pulled into the back parking lot I jumped out and began to look for an entrance to the theatre.

Once inside I discovered that the people working at St. Joseph College were anything but frigid. Howard, the TD of the space, at first seemed to be very quiet and not at all a theatre person. Kate (our technical coordinator and LD) and I wondered what we had gotten ourselves into! But it took only a short time to discover that Howard was a teasing and lovable teddy bear. Kate and I were treated as if we had worked in the space all of our lives, and our every wish and request was met with a smile. Not only did Howard strive to meet our every need, but he treated us to a fantastic lunch as well. He went far beyond the call of duty, and made it surprisingly difficult to leave the campus for the last time.

Because Kate and I only worked with tech, we never got a chance to meet the students at St. Joseph, but if they are anything like Howard and his boss, Dr. Bob Smith, then they must be the most welcoming and accommodating students around. I would return to St. Joseph's in a second, and I have no doubt that I would find a smiling Howard standing there with lunch in one hand and a wrench in the other ready to work.

Kisses, [Laura Keene](#)

Dear Diary,

After a day of traveling and lots of stress over misunderstandings and miscommunications in regards to the technical rehearsal times and capabilities, it was great to arrive at Earlham and find out that they were doing everything in their power to accommodate us. The students were very helpful and friendly. Even more impressive, most of them were only first or second-year students, but they showed an excellent knowledge of their space and great skills. It took them a while to warm up to us. I think they were used to being treated differently by other touring groups. But once they realized we weren't scary gorilla women they were extremely friendly and great to work with.

The actual performance was amazing. The instant the house lights went down the audience cheered like they were at a rock concert! It was an amazing energy that radiated through the house, which is saying something since I was behind the projection screen and couldn't actually see the show. At the reception after, everyone was so friendly and approachable. One student referred to us as feminist rock stars! Wow! The entire experience was amazing. The student body at Earlham is a great group – inquisitive, intelligent, welcoming and fun. It was a fun way to end the US premiere of the Guerrilla Girls On Tour Show tour.

[Kate Drain Lawson](#)

Dear book,

Earlham College, Richmond Indiana: an oasis of true democracy in a sea of red. Communal decision making, engaged and engaging faculty, well spoken, thinking students, a major in peace and global studies and an organic, vegan, food co-op on campus, what more could a Guerrilla Girl On Tour want? We arrived on Thursday evening to a room full of intro to art majors. As we warmed up our voices and bodies- shook up ideas and poster-making faculties, the students seemed unsure of what they were about to experience. As giggles and muffled sounds gave way to laughter and full voices, the group broke into huddles of creating artists addressing heavy, world topics: the war and possibility of a draft, immigration and the Patriot Act, as well as specific hot issues on campus: The pregnant mother policy and more funding for the arts facilities.

Friday morning was one fabulous reception after another. The women's studies class welcomed us with an open Q and A, filled with intelligent, focused questions and discussion. The afternoon brought an interview for a campus zine, again thoughtful and organized

discourse all around. The students, male and female, at Earlham welcomed us with open hearts and challenged us to push further. The evening performance was well received. Cheers abounded and the audience staged a flyer action to welcome us into their community! Our stay ended with a wonderful gathering at the Women's Center, surrounded by beautiful art, interesting women (and men) and CHOCOLATE J!

Love, [Eva La Gallienne](#)
Richmond, Indiana - March 2005

Dear Guerrilla Girls On Tour Diary,

Once again we are off fighting the good fight and trying to encourage others to stand up against discrimination, sexism and racism. This time we went to the University of West Florida in Pensacola. There were a core group of fantastic activists on campus who came to our workshop. But, as usual, we encountered a lot of apathetic young adults elsewhere. Why is it that most college students seem to care little about the injustices that surround them?! Are they too busy with term papers and exams? Perhaps they aren't aware of the many issues regarding sexism and racism that still exist in our country and maybe our visit opened their eyes for the first time. I hope so. I am encouraged that at least a few of them won't crawl back under the covers after we leave. It's discouraging to travel to college campuses and find out that young women and men don't seem to care about the world around them. I guess it's up to us to inspire and empower the future activists of the world.

Love, [Lupe Velez](#)
March 2005

Dear Diary –

Well, I have to say that I had my misgivings about going to an all Christian Science College, but in the end Principia College turned out to be one of the best gigs a Guerrilla Girl on Tour could have - well, without caffeine, that is.

On our drive to the College, we saw two Bald eagles circling high in the air. We couldn't believe it! Were we really seeing them or just imagining it? It turns out that the Bald Eagles are frequent visitors to the area in January and that we were very lucky to have spotted them. It was a good luck omen! When we finally arrived at Principia, we were greeted by some of the friendliest women I have ever met. We were given comfortable rooms at the Principia Alumni and Guest house and saw amazing birds and many deer. Exciting for a New York gal such as myself. The student feminist organization that brought us to the college eagerly met with us and helped us to our workshop. These women were so excited by our arrival and I couldn't help but think that these budding third- wavers are why we do what we do! They really made it worth the trip. They were kind enough to show us around their fabulous cafeteria (and gave us meal cards!!) with some of the best shakes I have ever had! I was a bit shocked at the complete lack of any caffeine on campus, but Christian Scientists don't believe in using caffeine, it seems, just yummy fried food and thick malted shakes!

At our workshop, the students were involved, passionate, and eager. Their posters showed the level of creativity and intelligence that Principia is proud of. I learned quickly that these students were well informed about the issues of sexism, racism, and discrimination. Who says that devout Christians aren't liberal?! The question and answer session in the classroom the following day was similar; thought provoking questions filled with passion and intellect, while still remaining respectful.

The best thing, however, was the show. The audience was with us the whole way as we took them through the funniest of the funny feminists. We had an incredible response during and after and enjoyed the meet and greet that the school provided.

All in all I have to say that the trip to Principia was a tremendous success.

Yours, [Fanny Brice](#)
January 2005